

WEST TISBURY VISIONING COMMITTEE, September 12, 2023, pg 1

PRESENT Dan Waters, Ginny Jones, Leah Smith, Beth Kramer, Caroline Mayhew, Bethany Hammond, Maribeth Macaia, Nancy Hoffman, Samantha Look, Alexandra Pratt, Cathlin Baker, Grant Joiner, Ollie Becker, Jane Rossi, Administrator, Delia Clark, Consultant.

ALSO PRESENT: Harriet Bernstein, Kate Warner, Chelsie (name on Zoom)

Leah opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.

DISCUSSION:

- Leah introduced Delia Clark and filled Delia in on what had been previously discussed amongst the committee members. We asked people for suggestions, we are working on a questionnaire for both town and seasonal residents.

Delia explained that she has been a consultant for several years and has worked with groups in New England, Alaska and Central Europe. She is based in Vermont. She believes in the model which she finds to be really effective at strengthening the fabric of the community. And it is great for the planning process, getting people to get to know each other and become more engaged in the community. Some projects will emerge from the process. Some may be for existing groups and some new groups will be formed. The first question she asks when forming a steering committee is “who’s not here”. You want to reach deeply into the community and try to think of whose perspective might be needed.

Several tasks will need to be divided out. Things to be thinking about:

- Where to hold the workshop
- Tasks to divide out
- Treasurer and Secretary
- Food: pot luck seems to be the best way to bring people together.
- Point person who knows how to set up a room: tables, chairs, location.
- Small group facilitator: Delia said she would train the group of what should be 20 or so people, the evening before the event. These facilitators should be able to step back from their personal opinions.
- Liaison with local officials
- Data and history groups
- Statistics

Youth engagement: perhaps there could be some credits earned by high school students who participate

- Promoting the event: artist to create a poster.

Delia told the committee the result of the Visioning Study will be a quick turn-around . She added that people may want to open their homes during that weekend to West Tisbury property owners who wish to participate but don’t have a place to stay. She said that forming focus groups prior to the event is not a good idea.

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Dan Waters mentioned that a lot of town discussion is hanging on the visioning study. Leah added that one of the Select Board members is a Visioning Committee member.

Delia said the survey is a great idea, get more people involved such as teenagers, parents of preschoolers, agriculture and trade workers. Nancy Hoffman suggested the issue of “the Vineyard shuffle” where many have to rent in the winter and move out in the spring. Kate Warner suggested climate change which plays a big part in the island’s future, and added that the committee should be considering the future of the West Tisbury School. Dan Waters added business owners. Bea said the survey will be helpful.

Dan Waters mentioned that some of the wording in the survey appeared to lean toward promoting some objectives and should be neutral and allow for all points of view about the future of the town. Bea Phear said she would like to work on editing the survey and Beth Kramer volunteered to assist Bea. Dan Waters and Grant Joiner joined the group.

Jane was asked to send out a ‘Doodle’ Schedule Calendar suggesting some meeting dates and times for the committee to fill out.

Nancy Hoffman suggested she head a group to gain youth participation. Samantha Look and Maribeth Macaia volunteered to assist.

Beth Kramer and Leah Smith said they would look into town statistics, and they would ask Susie Wasserman to assist.

It was suggested that Ken Vincent or Alan Whiting be asked to create a poster.

It was mentioned that some people in construction and landscaping get involved.

Caroline Mayhew suggested the committee spread the word to a wide range of people. The MV Times, Gazette, and the town column were suggested.

Jane was asked to send the town website link to the committee members and make hard copies of the 1997 Visioning Profile.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Rossi, Planning Board Administrator. **Approved on October 3, 2023**